



SUDAN MORNING NEWS

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Darfur

- Vice President Ali Osman Taha reiterated yesterday Sudan's rejection of UN Security Council Resolution 1706. Taha further stated that his government may not accept the deployment of a combined UN and African Union (AU) force to Darfur. In addition, Taha emphasized that reaching a political settlement in Darfur will resolve instability in the region. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)

- Vice President Taha criticized the United States by saying that its foreign policy "is based on commands and the imposition of political options. Whoever disobeys these commands will be subjected to sanctions." Taha said he did not anticipate an improvement in relations with Washington soon. Regarding the recent U.S. elections, he stated that despite previous tense relations between the Democratic Party and the Sudanese government, Sudan anticipates a change in the Democrats' policy towards Sudan, given the current situation in Iraq and Afghanistan. (*Radio Omdurman, Al-Rai Al-Aam, et al*)

- The AU is scheduled to meet today in Addis Ababa to discuss the situation in Darfur. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan is expected to attend this meeting. (*Al-Ayaam*)

- UN Secretary General Kofi Annan asserted that the UN will not rule out the possibility of deploying UN forces to Darfur. Annan further anticipated the deployment of monitors along Sudan's border with Chad. (*Al-Sahafa*)

- Vice President Taha commented on UN Secretary General Annan's statements on the deployment of monitors along the border by saying that it will complicate the situation further. (*Al-Sahafa, Al-Rai Al-Aam*)

- The Deputy Wali of South Darfur accused the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM Minawi) of violating the Darfur Peace Agreement by attacking other military factions and civilians, thereby destabilizing Southern Darfur. (*Alwan*)

- UN Assistant Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs Jan Egeland described the situation in Darfur as being "unacceptable and deteriorating further. No progress will be made in the current situation without the immediate halt of military operations." (*Al-Sudani*)

Miscellaneous

- President Al-Bashir is scheduled to visit Juba on Saturday, according to Government of South Sudan Information Minister Samson Kwaje. The president will address the budget with the South Sudan ministerial cabinet, and he will "inspect the security situation in Southern Sudan." (*The Citizen*)

- First Vice President Salva Kiir is scheduled to visit Cairo on Tuesday to discuss the situation in Darfur with Egyptian officials. (*Al-Ayaam*)

- Sudan People's Liberation Movement and United Democratic Front MPs walked out of a National Assembly session yesterday to protest the absence of English translations of Arabic documents under discussion. (*Sudan Tribune, Juba Post*)

Quote of the Day

"Both reality and time have surpassed UN Security Council Resolution 1706." – Vice President Ali Osman Taha

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